Types of Manuscripts Published in *Critical Care Explorations*: General and Specific Guidance

Type	Text Guideline	Abstract Guideline	Figure and Table Guidelines	Reference Guidelines	Standard Checklists for Article Elements	Article Processing Charges (APCs) for 2026
	Authors are encouraged to be concise and stay within the boundaries provided below. Additional information my always be included as supplemental digital content.	**Word limit: 300 words for all abstracts. See notes below for additional limits on selected article types.**	Each table should be numbered and cited in sequence using Arabic numerals (i.e., Table 1, 2, 3, etc.). Table titles should appear above the table and not exceed 15 words. It is the authors' responsibility to obtain permission from the copyright holder(s) to reproduce figures or tables that have previously been published elsewhere.	References should be numbered consecutively, in parentheses, in the order in which they are cited in the text and should be formatted in the National Library of Medicine style. Citations in the reference list should include all named authors, up to the first three, before adding “et al." Any “in press" articles cited within the references and necessary for the reviewers' assessment of the manuscript should be made available if requested by the editorial office.	**Be sure to submit your checklists with the manuscript submission.**	

Original clinical report	The main text should be 3000-3500 words.	• Objectives (Background) • Design • Setting • Patients/Subjects • Interventions • Measurements and Main Results • (Limitations) • Conclusions	Six or fewer total tables or figures	Cite original research in preference to reviews where possible. Clinical trials must be registered with an appropriate agency (e.g., clinicaltrials.gov) prior to initial enrollment.	Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials (CONSORT) Statement: latest guidelines for reporting randomized trials	$2,150
Original basic science report	The main text should be 3000-3500 words.	• Context (What is the problem or knowledge gap being addressed?) • Hypothesis (State the overarching study hypothesis) • Methods and Models (What models, techniques, and methods did you use; include statistical methods) • Results (What are your primary findings?) • Interpretation and Conclusions (What new knowledge has your work generated?)	Six or fewer tables or figures	Cite original research in preference to reviews where possible.	Improving bioscience research reporting: the Animal Research: Reporting of *In Vivo* Experiments (ARRIVE) guidelines for reporting animal research	$2,150
Economic evaluation of health interventions	The main text should be 3000-3500 words. .	• Objectives • Perspective • Setting	Six or fewer tables or figures	Cite original research in preference to	Consolidated Health Economic Evaluation Reporting Standards (CHEERS) checklist	$1,050

		• Methods (including study design and inputs) • Results (including base case and uncertainty analyses) • Conclusions		reviews where possible.		
Observational or cohort study	The main text should be 3000-3500 words. .	• Importance • Objectives • Design, Setting and Participants • Main Outcomes and Measures • Results • Conclusions and Relevance	Six or fewer tables or figures	Cite original research in preference to reviews where possible.	Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (STROBE) Statement: guidelines for reporting observational studies	$1,050
Narrative review	The main text should be 3000-3500 words.	• Objectives • Data Sources • Study Selection • Data Extraction • Data Synthesis • Conclusions	Six or fewer tables or figures	Cite original research in preference to reviews where possible.		$2,150
Systematic review with or without meta-analysis		• Objectives • Data Sources • Study Selection • Data Extraction • Data Synthesis • Conclusions	Six or fewer tables or figures	Cite original research in preference to reviews where appropriate. Mention prior recent systematic reviews of the	Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) Statement	$2,150

				same or similar topics.		
Predictive modeling report		• Background • Objective • Derivation Cohort • Validation Cohort • Prediction Model • Results • Conclusion:	Six or fewer tables or figures	References should identify contemporary prior work addressing the question. Cite original articles in preference to review articles.	Transparent Reporting of a Multivariable Prediction Model for Individual Prognosis or Diagnosis (TRIPOD)	$1,050
Case report	800–1500 words	• 150 words, including at least: • Background (What does this case report add to the medical literature? • Case summary (Chief complaint, diagnosis, interventions, and outcomes) • Conclusion (What is the main takeaway lesson from this case?)	Three or fewer tables or figures	References should include all prior case reports of the situation described.	Case Reporting (CARE) guidelines for consensus-based clinical case reporting	$1,050
Research Report	800–1500 words	• Objectives (Background) • Design • Setting • Patients/Subjects • Interventions • Measurements and Main Results • (Limitations) • Conclusions	Two or fewer tables or figures	Cite original research in preference to reviews where possible. Clinical trials must be registered with an appropriate agency (e.g.,		$1,050

				clinicaltrials.gov) prior to initial enrollment.		
Commentary	800–1500 words	150 words, unstructured	Three or fewer tables or figures	References should illustrate any controversies or alternate perspectives in addition to citations supporting the commenter's position.		$950
Methodology, including performance reports of new or existing technology. Trial protocols are considered new experimental methods.	Generally, around 3000 words	• Background • Methods • Results and Conclusions	Six or fewer tables or figures	References should identify alternate approaches of methodology or technology, as appropriate.		$950
Quality improvement report/study	Generally, around 3000 words	• Background • Methods • Results and Conclusions	Six or fewer tables or figures	References should identify other single-center quality improvement efforts		$950

				addressing the same or similar problems. Text should make clear why the QI approach is novel and/or better than what has been previously described.		
Letter to the editor	1000–2500 words	150 words, unstructured	Three or fewer tables	Ten or fewer references preferred.		$950
Qualitative and Mixed Methods Studies	The main text should be 3500 words.	• Importance • Objectives • Design, Setting and Participants • Analysis • Results • Conclusions	Six or fewer tables or figures.	Cite original research in preference to reviews where possible.	Qualitative and Mixed Methods • Consolidated criteria for Reporting Qualitative research (COREQ); or • Standard for Reporting Qualitative Research (SRQR) Mixed Methods • A consensus-based Checklist for Reporting of Survey Studies (CROSS) (mixed-methods with a	$950

					survey component); or • Stengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (STROBE) (mixed-methods with an observational study component); or • Other reporting checklists as appropriate based on the quantitative study design	
Study Protocols	The main text should be no more than 3000 words. The Introduction should explicitly describe the innovative aspects of the protocol as part of the rationale. The Key Points will differ from those of other manuscript types. For Protocols, the Key	• Importance • Objectives • Design, Setting, Participants • Interventions, Outcomes, Analysis • Conclusions	Six or fewer tables or figures.	Cite original research in preference to reviews where possible.	Clinical Trials • SPIRIT (and extensions) • InsPECT	$1,050

	Points should cover (1) Current state of clinical problem, (2) Rationale for sutdy design, and (3) Which domain(s) (i.e., design, regulatory processes, data sources, or analytic methods) contain novelty/innovation, and how.					